

Blue Wing

Tom Russell

IV-15

from Dave Alvin's CD King Of California Key of G (In D on CD)

He had a blue wing tattooed on his shoulder D *G*
Might have been a bluebird, I don't know, D Em *G Am*
 But he'd get stone drunk and talk about Alaska
Salmon boats and 45 below A D *D G*

Well he got that blue wing in jail at Walla Walla D *G*
 And his cellmate there was a Little Willie John D Em *G Am*
 Willie, he was once a great blues singer,
 So Wing & Willie wrote him up a song A D *D G*

Chorus:

He said it's dark in here, I can't see the sky D G *G C*
 But I look at this blue wing and I close my eyes D A *G D*
 And fly away, beyond these walls, D G *G C*
 Up above the clouds, where the rain don't fall D A *G D*
 On a poor man's dream D GAD *G CDG*

They paroled Blue Wing in August in 1963, D *G*
 And he moved on picking apples to the town of Wenatchee D Em *G Am*
 Winter finally caught him in a rundown trailer park
 On the south side of Seattle where the days grow gray and dark A D *D G*

And he drank and he dreamt a vision D *G*
 Of when the salmon still ran free D *G*
 And his father's fathers crossed that wide old Bering sea D Em *G Am*
 The land belonged to everyone, there were old songs yet to sing
 Now, it's narrowed down to a cheap hotel A *D*
 And a tattooed prison wing D *G*

Chorus

Break

GAD GAD A *CDG CDG D*

Well he drank his way to LA and that's where he died D *G*
 No one knew his Christian name, D *G*
 And there was no one there who cried Em *Am*
 But I dreamt there was a service, a preacher and an old pine box
 And halfway through the sermon, Blue Wing began to talk A D (pause) *D G*

Chorus

On a poor man's dream D G A *G CD*
 On a poor man's dream D *G*